MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

20th Dec.—British mechanised forces operating around Bardia thrust into the outer perimeter of the Italian defences. Bardia has been bombed from the air and bombarded from the sea while a ring of British tanks and massed troops is drawn around its inland sides. Great damage has been done at Derna, military buildings being set on fire, violent explosions occurring and direct hits being registered on barracks, police headquarters, motor transport, parks and garrages. One British Fighter Patrol squadron shoots down five Italian planes.

Greek advance in Albania: The desperate resistance which the Italians are putting up all along the northern front is tending to hold up the Greek advance, while the Italians are concentrating their reinforcements in the rear of their positions.

British Air Force bomb Brindisi.

Royal Air Force bomb Berlin. The chief objectives of the raid are factories, goods yards and the railway station. Aircraft of the Coastal Command attack aerodromes and harbours in enemy occupied territory, gun positions in Cap Griz Nez and invasion ports, paticularly at Ostend, Antwerp and Le Havre, Flushing, Boulogne and the docks at Amsterdam.

The Royal Air Force make highly successful raids on the Castel aerodrome destroying nineteen aircraft on the ground and damaging others without loss to themselves.

The British steamer *Carlton* has been torpedoed by a German submarine.

Britain is now receiving from United States factories many more times the number of fighter aeroplanes than is the United States Army. A contract for the construction of 60 new merchantmen for Britain has been signed by British representatives.

Joint Japanese-German-Italian general, military and economic commissions are to be set up in the capitals of the three countries.

A Dutch newspaper published in London reports that Nazis in Holland have introduced compulsory labour service for all Dutchmen. They are being compelled to work six months every year.

The third officer of the Irish Channel mail steamer *Cambria* was killed when the steamer was machine-gunned by a German bomber.

A strict black-out has been enforced in the former Free City of Danzig as a result of the recent British air raids.

21st Dec.—Italian troops in beleagured Bardia are still holding out against the British forces which continue to be reinforced. British forces are preparing for a terrific onslaught on Bardia. Aerodromes at Berka and Benina near Benghazi have been raided. British bombers attack Tobruk harbour. A fierce air battle takes place between nine British fighters and over fifty Italian planes. Eight enemy planes have been shot down. Two British planes have been lost.

Greek advance in Albania: The occupation of new positions after successful engagements is reported.

The *Luftwaffe* resume its heavy raids on Britain with a concentrated attack on Liverpool and other Merseyside towns. The number of people killed in the Liverpool raid is believed to be less than a score. A few houses, shops and commercial buildings have been damaged. One German bomber has been brought down.

British heavy bombers attack Porto Marghera near Venice and start fires at an oil refinery there. Oil plants in the Ruhr and the Rhineland are hit and set ablaze and fires started at a large military store at Cologne. Other targets successfully bombed include factories, inland docks, railways and aerodromes in Germany, together with docks and harbour works at Rotterdam, Flushing, Antwerp, Ostend and Calais.

British bombers raid Fiume and bomb an Italian base in Tripolitana.

Fearing lest the pressure they are now exercising on the Vichy Government should lead to a situation in which Marshal Petain and his collaborators, pushed beyond endurance, might feel that the only solution will be their flight into North Africa, the Germans have increased the number of Gestapo men in Vichy and have placed members of the German Secret Police on guard at French ports and aerodromes.

A 5,000-ton German supply ship has been bombed by a British Coastal Command Blenheim bomber during a reconnaissance of Boulogne harbour.

President Roosevelt declares to a Press Conference that " lending of war material to Britain " would require Congressional action to make it effective, but the repeal of the Johnson Act would not be necessary.

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22nd Dec.—Reinforcements are steadily reaching the British troops in Bardia area. An enemy bomber is shot down at Gambat. In East Africa a night raid has been carried out on Asmara where one large factory shed has been set on fire.

The Greek advance continues. The Italians are retreating north of Palermo Bay towards Chimarra.

Enemy air activity over England. Manchester has its longest and severest air raid. A number of people have been killed and many injured. A large number of fires have also been caused. Bombs have also been dropped on Merseyside and East Midlands, Liverpool, etc. Three enemy bombers have been destroyed.

Royal Air Force attack Wilhelmshaven in Germany and naval base at Brest and L'Orient. Ludwigshaven and Mannheim have been bombed by Royal Air Force. Ports of Dunkirk, Flushing and Calais have also been bombed.

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British Cabinet changes. Lord Halifax has been appointed Ambassador to the United States and Mr. Antony Eden, Foreign Secretary. Capt. David Margesson, Government Chief Whip, is appointed War Minister in the place of Mr. Eden. Viscount Cranborne becomes the Chief Foreign Office Spokesman in the House of Lords.

A German Foreign Office spokesman declares: The German Government would regard the taking over by the United States of German shipping in the United States and its sale to Britain as a serious matter.

A Japanese military mission has left for Germany and Italy to study the experiences of the present conflict on the spot.

23rd Dec.—Bardia is still in the hands of the Italians. British forces are playing a waiting game. Thirty-five thousand nine hundred and forty-nine prisoners including 1,704 officers have been evacuated from the Sidi Barrani battle area. Royal Air Force raid Assab, Castel Benito and Tripoli.

Greeks have captured Chimarra. The Commander of the second battalion of the Bersaglieri regiment together with his staff has been captured. An entire battalion of Blackshirts (141 Battalion) consisting of 29 officers and 677 other ranks have also been taken prisoners. Fighting is raging around Klisura.

A town in Lancashire suffers the main weight of German air activity. Considerable damage has been done and fires started, but the casualties are not heavy.

Royal Air Force bomb ports of Boulogne, Dunkirk, Ostend and industrial targets in Rhineland.

Substantial reinforcements of all arms have arrived in Malaya including aircraft and Air Force personnel and members of Indian infantry, artillery and engineer as well as auxiliary units. Indian troops which arrived are completely mechanized.

A dramatic appeal to the Italian nation to disavow Mussolini and to follow the House of Savoy has been made by the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, broadcasting from London.

24th Dec.—Troop concentrations and artillery preparations around Bardia are continuing. Royal Air Force bombers raid Gazala aerodrome.

Greeks are driving towards Valona. Italians are retreating north-west of Chimarra. A large formation of enemy bombers raid Sollum causing slight damage and a number of casualties. Valona aerodrome has been attacked.

Two trains have been machine-gunned from the air in East England and a soldier-passenger in one of them fatally wounded. Apart from this there is no other air activity reported.

France is anxiously awaiting Hitler's next move following reports that Marshal Petain has firmly refused German demands both for military co-operation and the reinstatement of M. Laval as Foreign Minister. M. Petain has countered the German demands with an ultimatum of his own, namely, with a threat to resign.

Both Germany and Italy have decided after considerable hesitation that Mr. Churchill's appeal to the Italian people could not be ignored. A denial that there have been no differences between the King of Italy and Mussolini is the main feature of the reply to Mr. Chuchill's broadcast.

25th Dec.—Preparations to deal with the situation in Bardia are being steadily pushed forward. Spasmodic artillery fire from both sides continue at Bardia. British forces massing near the beleaguered town have been subjected to dive-bombing attacks by enemy aircraft. These attacks have caused few casualties, being mostly ineffective.

Italian aircraft bomb the undefended town of Corfu on Christmas day killing 15 persons and injuring 30. Royal Air Force pilots drop hundreds of gifts for the citizens of Corfu.

There has been slight enemy air activity over Britain. Enemy aircraft visited the Orkneys and the Scottish coast. One plane has been shot down.

There is no British air raid over Germany.

A fine of one million francs has been imposed by German military authorities on the population of Orleans following the cutting of a German military telephone line. The perpetrators of this act of sabotage have not been traced.

An engagement between British forces and a powerful enemy warship in the North Atlantic on Christmas day is reported. The

warship was given chase and engaged in action at long range. Visibility decreased rapidly. The enemy withdrew at high speed. The British cruiser *Berwick* sustained slight damage and five casualties.

26th Dec.—The Royal Australian Air Force over the Western Desert shoot down two Italian planes.

Greek troops have entered Lin and are advancing upon Chasasan Chukus. They have also advanced in the northern sector of the Albanian front. Italians have abandoned the line of heights of strategic importance in the Chimarra area. Royal Air Force bomb Krionero.

No air raids over England.

Royal Air Force attack several aerodromes in Brittany and targets in the invasion port of Bordeaux.

Abyssinian resistance to Italians is growing. Abyssinian guerillas are constantly attacking Italian communications.

Any alien in the United States failing to register by midnight on 26th December 1940 is liable to six months' imprisonment and a 1,000 dollar fine.

27th Dec.—Little activity in the Western Desert.

Greeks have pushed forward north-east of Chimarra.

Nazi bombers re-appear over England. A hospital containing 700 patients has been damaged. A few bombs have been dropped in East Anglia and South-east England.

Royal Air Force raid L'Orient, bases in occupied France and Fockewulf, heavy bomber station at Meriganoc near Bordeaux.

Nauru, a defenceless mandated island in the Pacific has been shelled by an enemy raider sailing under a Japanese name and flying the Japanese colours. The raider hoisted the Nazi flag before opening fire.

German long-range guns mounted on French coast shell the Dover coast. No casualties or damages reported.

While the German press has warned the United States not to send ships to Eire, Rome has assured Eire that if she should be " forced to defend herself against British tyranny and aggression " she will receive full support from the Axis.

Germans are confiscating about 10,000 lb. of meat daily in Oslo.

A 4,000-ton supply ship has been set on fire by British planes during an attack on Haguesind area in Norway.

28th Dec.—Large scale attack on Bardia has not yet been launched. Italian prisoners counted to date in the Western Desert number 38,114 of whom 24,845 are Italian officers and other ranks. Fighter aircraft of a South African squadron intercept two Italian aircraft near Gadaref and shoot one down.

Greeks have dislodged the Italians from points north and north-west of Chimarra.

Enemy bombers make a short but sharp attack on a town in South-West England. A large number of shops and houses have been wrecked.

Royal Air Force atack L'Orient, oil targets at Rotterdam and Antwerp and the invasion ports of Boulogne and Cherbourg.

Sixty per cent of the American people today think that it is more important for the United States to help Britain even at the risk of being involved in the war themselves than to keep out of the war, according to the latest poll conducted by the Gallup Institute of Public Opinion.

Admiral Darlan who was comissioned to tell Herr Otto Abetz, Hitler's Ambassador in Paris, of Marshal Petain's firm refusal to surrender the French fleet has returned to Vichy with his report.

29th Dec.—While preparations for the final onslaught on Bardia are continuing British mechanized units are engaged in clearing up enemy concentrations east and south of this port. In reply to British harassing fire Italian artillery becomes more active. Royal Air Force bomb landing grounds at Tmimi, Tobruk, Derna and Gazala.

After fierce fighting in north-east and north of Chimarra, Greeks have captured three more villages. Royal Air Force attack Valona twice.

Nazi raid on London. German raiders make " a deliberate attempt to set fire to the City of London." One thousand firemen spend the night in fighting a ring of fires. St. Paul's Cathedral has been saved again from destruction. But the following nine churches have been damaged :—St. Brides in Fleet street, St. Lawrence in Jewry, St. Stephens in Coleman street, St. Vedasts in Foster lane, St. Mary in Aldermanbury, St. Andrew St. Anne and St. Agnes in Gresham street, Christ Church, Greyfriars and St. Mary Wollnoth in Lombard street. Guild hall, Doctor Johnson's memorial house in Gough Square, Old Bailey and Trinity House have also been damaged.

While German raiders scattered fire bombs indiscriminately on London, British bombing squadrons which crossed to enemy-occupied territory decided that the weather was too bad for accurate bombing and restricted their activities to a small scale. A small squadron attack objectives in Germany as well as invasion ports and military objectives in the Frankfurt area. Royal Air Force attack Naples also and drop bombs and leaflets containing Mr. Churchill's speech.

The Foreign Minister declares that Bulgaria will not depart from her avowed policy of strict neutrality.

President Roosevelt speaks out that America must be the great arsenal of Democracy. He expresses the belief, based on

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latest information, that the Axis powers are not going to win the war.

30th Dec.—Italian bombers escorted by raiders raid Malta. No material damage caused, the casualties being two small children slightly wounded.

Fortified positions to the west of Pogradetz have been wrenched by the Greeks from the Italians. During local operations Greeks capture over a thousand Italian prisoners and arms.

Bad weather conditions give the whole of Britain a night free from enemy air activity.

Unfavourable weather over the continent prevent the Royal Air Force from carrying out usual operations in Germany and occupied territories.

31st Dec.—British artillery has again been active in the Bardia area. The Italians continue passively to await events.

The Royal Air Force raid Taranto and Naples. Bombs dropped on Torra Annunziata. Valona has again been raided.

Deadly engagements are being fought out in Klisura sector. On the western banks of Lake Ochrida extremely fierce fighting is continuing. The village of Lin proves difficult for the Greeks to capture partly owing to the intense cold and partly on account of some high flanking positions which the Italians are still holding. Italians are however withdrawing their material towards Elbasan.

Air raids over England is confined to a few isolated attacks by single aircraft in Kent and Sussex.

Targets in Germany and the Low Countries have been attacked by British bombers—Cologne, Rotterdam and docts at Ymuiden and Flushing. Two British aircraft are missing The attacks have been made during day-light. No night attack has been made.

President Roosevelt indicated at a Press Conference that his lending and leasing programme to Britain might embrace repayment to America by Britain sending raw materials to the United States.

It is reported that the Vichy Government and Germany have broken off negotiations. It is understood that Marshal Petain's message upheld the view-point that the armistice conditions left him the full right to make whatever changes in the Vichy Cabinet he thinks fit.

A mass levy of fire watchers—some millions of men and women, house-holders and shop-keepers and workers in the office buildings, factories and ware-houses—have been called for by the Home Secretary after the great fire raid on London on Sunday, the 29th December. The principle of compulsion has been affirmed by Government.

A British war ship sinks four Italian supply ships in the Adriatic.

1st Jan.—A new line of fortified positions discounting possible future loss of Tepeleni, Klissura and Valona is being prepared by the Italians across Central Albania. The Greeks are advancing in three main sections, the first towards Berat, the second towards Elbasan and the third based on Pogradetz and Lin also towards Elbasan.

Several enemy aircraft have been active over England and Wales. A small number of people have been killed and some others injured.

Bombs have been dropped in Ireland by an unidentified plane between Droghdea and Julians Town, thirty miles north of Dublin.

Royal Air Force hammer Germany, Bremen coming in for severe battering. Ports in enemy-occupied territory including Flushing, Ostend and Brest have been attacked.

As a result of Marshal Petain's firm action most of the French warships destroyers and submarines stationed at Toulon are reported to have gone to Bizerta, Oran, Casablanca and Dakar. A number of French airmen have also been sent to North Africa.

M. Stalin in a signed article in the *Red Star* says: "The danger of war for Russia has increased. The whole nation must hold itself in a state of preparedness. We are facing danger of military aggression and we must leave no opportunity for our enemies to catch us unawares."

Reports from German frontier state that a new type of Junkers planes made of transparent material and to be scarcely visible at a height of 2,400 feet is being constructed at big aircraft factories.

Five hundred persons including 70 women and 7 children have been rescued from Emirau Island in Bismarck where they have been landed from an enemy raider on December 21. They comprise passengers and crew of seven ships.

2nd Jan.—Bardia is regarded as pretty well cut off and there are no means of escape for Italian troops.

Italo-Greek War. Ominous quiet prevails in Albania. On the Italian frontier, barracks occupied by the Italian garrison at Postumia have been set on fire.

More bombs have been dropped on Eire territory. One of the incendiary bombs picked up has been identified as German.

Enemy air action over England has been confined to coastal areas. Little damage and few minor casualties have been caused by bombs dropped in Kent.

Royal Air Force attack German invasion ports in spite of bad weather conditions in the Straits of Dover.

Sections of the German Air Force have arrived in Italy. It is stated that the German Air Contingent will participate in the air and naval struggle in the Mediterranean.

It is stated that a military regime has been organized by General Antonescu in Rumania superseding the former "Legionary State".

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the fortnight ending 24th December 1940 :—

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
December 11, Wednesday.	R. A. F. night raids on Mannheim (power-stations, inland docks, railway yards); invasion bases at Calais, Boulogne, Etaples.	1	..
December 12, Thursday.	R. A. F. night raids on shipping of Dutch coast, naval base at Brest.	..	..
December 13, Friday.	R. A. F. night raids on Bremen (harbour, warehouses, factories, railway stations and yards); Bordeaux (submarine base, warehouses); naval shipbuilding yards at Kiel; invasion bases and aerodromes in Holland.	Nil.	..
December 14, Saturday.	R. A. F. night raids on submarine bases at Brest and L'Orient.	Nil.	..
December 15, Sunday.	R. A. F. night raids on Berlin (arms factories, railway stations, junctions and yards, power stations); Frankfurt (inland port, factories, warehouses, grain elevators, oil plant); naval shipbuilding yards at Kiel and Bremen; shipping off French coast.	3	..
December 16, Monday.	R. A. F. day raids on aerodromes in occupied territory; shipping off French coast. R. A. F. night raids on Mannheim-Ludwigshaven area (aniline and other industrial works, aircraft factory at Speyer, railway yards and other objectives in Neckerstadt and Heilbronn); Bordeaux (submarines and docks).	4	..
December 17, Tuesday.	R. A. F. night raids on industrial targets at Mannheim; invasion bases and aerodromes along Channel.	..	..
December 18, Wednesday.	R. A. F. night raids on Pirelli aero-engine works at Milan; docks at Genoa; industrial plant at Mannheim; aerodromes in N. Germany; submarine base at L'Orient.	Nil.	..
December 19, Thursday.	R. A. F. day raids on aerodromes at Le Touquet and Maupertus. R. A. F. night raids on Bergen-Oslo railway (Norway); industrial objectives in Duisberg-Ruhrort, Bonn and Essen; oil plant at Cologne; A. A. batteries at Dusseldorf.	Nil.	..
December 20, Friday.	R. A. F. day raids on aerodromes and harbours in occupied territory; enemy shipping off Boulogne; gun emplacements and barracks near Cap Griz-Nez. R.A.F. night raids on Berlin (aero-engine and other factories, railway stations, goods and timber yards, inland docks, search lights and A. A. batteries); industrial objectives in the Ruhr; invasion bases at Flushing, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Ostend, Boulogne and Le Havre.	Nil.	..

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
December 21, Saturday.	R. A. F. night raids on Bergen-Oslo railway (Norway); Venice (docks, factories and petroleum plant at Porto Marghera); oil plant in Ruhr and Rhineland; military stores at Cologne; factories inland docks; railways and aerodromes in Germany; oil depots at Amsterdam; invasion bases at Rotterdam, Flushing, Antwerp, Ostend, Calais.	Nil.	..
December 22, Sunday.	R. A. F. dawn attacks on naval bases at Wilhelmshaven, Brest, L'Orient. R. A. F. night raids on Mannheim-Ludwigshaven (railways, river docks, industrial objectives); other Rhineland targets; invasion bases at Flushing, Dunkirk, Calais; aerodromes in occupied territory.	One.	..
December 23, Monday.	R. A. F. night raids on invasion bases at Ostend, Dunkirk, Boulogne, industrial targets in Rhineland, including Mannheim-Ludwigshaven.	One.	..
December 24, Tuesday.	No R. A. F. raids over Germany	..	..

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the fortnight ending 24th December 1940:—

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
December 11	Nil.	2
December 12	Nil.	6
December 13	..	2
December 14	..	..
December 15	..	2
December 16	..	..
December 17	..	..
December 18	..	..
December 19	..	1
December 20	..	..
December 21	..	4
December 22	2 (Interned in Eire).	3
December 23	..	3
December 24	..	..

TALKING POINTS

POSITION IN GREAT BRITAIN

From all accounts the position of the Allies in 1941 is infinitely superior to that which faced Great Britain in the middle of last year after the Dunkirk episode and the fall of France. There is of course still the prospective German invasion of Great Britain, but now that on land, sea and air the situation has improved remarkably, there is no apprehension about the possible result of such an attempt by Hitler. The shipping losses are serious but measures are being taken to combat the menace to shipping both from the air and from under the water, while the losses are being recouped by new building and acquisition. Several cities in England have gone through severe trials, London especially has had the worst of it. But the people are standing to it and the morale of the people is as high as ever, the indiscriminate bombing only strengthening the determination to fight till victory is won. Mr. Churchill's answer to the question as to when the war will be over, that it will be over when Great Britain has defeated Germany, is significant of the aim and purpose of Great Britain. Mr. Bevin declared a few days ago that the time lost in industrial disputes in Great Britain during the last twelve months was lower than any period in the last 50 years. Contrasting the difference of Great Britain with France which swore by the Maginot Line but failed to maintain a strong reserve, Mr. Churchill said: "We are not making the mistake made by the French General Staff. We have now got a very large army behind this country capable of moving to any place with great rapidity and of coming into action in the strongest counter-offensive."

GERMANY'S DIFFICULTIES

The War is a race against time so far as Hitler is concerned. He tries to have a knock-out blow against Great Britain, but for securing this object he requires the help of France. From all accounts it is clear that France has so far declined, relying upon the Armistice terms, either to hand over what remains of the French Navy or to enable Germany to use the French ports in the Mediterranean for its operations in Africa. Will Hitler, as suggested, by the marching of troops in occupied France, invade unoccupied France and forcibly occupy the French ports? The result of that will be to inflame Marshal Petain's Government against Germany and strengthen De Gaulle's Free French Forces with the almost certain prospect of forcing the great French Colonial Empire being ranged against him. Will he then send his troops through Spain, occupy Gibraltar and thus help Italy, at the same time making the Atlantic unsafe for Great Britain? General Franco has so far shown, though he is a non-belligerent, considerable prudence in refusing to walk into Germany's parlour. One has also got to remember what Sir Samuel Hoare, the British Ambassador in Madrid, said on the 1st January: "Much had already been achieved to remove differences between Spanish and Anglo-Saxon peoples, and he was convinced that in the coming months of the great struggle, the fundamental outlook and interests of the Spanish and Anglo-Saxons were the same." The drive to move into the Balkans is still in the offing. But though Rumania is practically an occupied country and Hungary is practically in Hitler's hands, Bulgaria is distinctly hostile to Hitler's moves. It has declared its neutrality, strengthened of course by Greek successes and encouraged perhaps by Russia. Yugoslavia is likewise unwilling to help Hitler in his plans. But Hitler is still powerful, and what his plans are nobody knows. But the odds are certainly against him. French faith in Britain is steadily increasing. Turkey's friendship to Great Britain is growing. Russia is not over-enthusiastic about Germany and Germany cannot without exposing weak spots remove vast armies from one front to another.

ITALY

Italy is more a liability to Hitler than an asset. Mussolini could have justified his partnership in the Axis by using his navy and army in Libya and drive the British from the Eastern Mediterranean. But the Italian navy preferred port to open sea. Graziani, in spite of his careful preparations, did not launch his attack on Egypt. And what is the position in Libya? The battle of Bardia is now being fought. Bardia is not a war encampment but a strongly fortified base with heavy coastal artillery and land defences prepared in peace up to some seven miles in depth. British armoured units have got in behind Bardia and cut the road to Tobruk. The Royal Navy has bombarded all the positions from Tobruk to Bardia from the sea. Mechanised cavalry is sweeping round in an encircling movement and a frontal attack is being delivered by the infantry, supported on the ground by tanks and field artillery and in the air by aircraft which hold off the dive-bombers of the enemy and rain destruction upon targets. It must be remembered, however, that the swift moves and remarkable successes of British forces are not designed to secure large slices of the Libyan desert, but only to inflict, as such damage as possible on the Italian war machine. There are difficulties of supply and reinforcements in the desert, and it is not possible now to say how far the westward drive will go. But the loss of 38,000 Italian soldiers who have been made prisoners besides a large number of dead and wounded and heavy losses in war materials have resulted in a crushing blow to Italian prestige.

Greek successes, more and more of which are being registered every day, have brought Mussolini no comfort whatsoever. Despite bitter winter weather and heavy falls of snow, the Greek forces are marching onwards; they have gained the commanding heights which

dominate the coast road between Chimarra and Valona, Tepelini, which is an important junction on the road to Valona from Argyrocastro and Klissura, an important supply depot. Valona, therefore, is being threatened by a double converging movement and is being constantly bombarded by the R.A.F. If the Greeks succeed in pushing their way down the valley of Skumbi to Elbasan, the whole Italian position in Albania based on Durazzo would become well nigh perilous. The Italians, however, have strong reinforcements and they have short lines of communication, while the distance of the Greek forces from their supply bases is long. The Italian morale is so low and the prospect of direct German help is so distant that the Greeks, who may well be content until the spring to break the back of the Italians, will be tempted to follow up their successes by quick drives.

The successful operations against the Italians by the Greeks in Albania and the British in North Africa are due primarily to the command of Mediterranean by the Royal Navy, which has always retained the initiative, by the Fleet Air Arm crippling the Italian navy. It will be remembered that the Italian port of Valona was bombarded on the 18th December. British destroyers, cruisers and battleships passed the Straits of Otranto which are only 40 miles wide and which are strongly guarded on the west and the east. The cammand of the Mediterranean means that Libya is cut off from Italy and Eritria from Libya.

AMERICAN ASSISTANCE

The striking pronouncement of recent days was that of President Roosevelt. The number of direct references to totalitarian countries in this speech is evidence of the desire of America to help Great Britain in every possible way. What can be more comforting than his statement that America will become the great arsenal of Democracy and his assertion, based on the latest information, that the Axis Powers were not going to win the war. Here are a few extracts from President Roosevelt's speech :—

"If Britain goes down, the Axis will control Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia and the high seas, and it is not an exaggeration to say that all of us in America will be living at the point of a gun, loaded with explosive bullets, economic as well as military."

"The fate of nations, who, despite non-aggression pacts, have been overrun and thrown into a modern form of slavery, tells us what it means to live at the point of the Nazi gun. The Nazis justified such acts by pious frauds like occupying a country to restore order or protect it against aggression."

"Any idea that the Nazis never desired to attack the Western Hemisphere was the same form of dangerous and wishful thinking, which had destroyed the power of resistance of many countries."

"The Nazis have declared that all races are their inferiors and, therefore, subject to their orders and that, most important of all, the vast resources of this Hemisphere constitute the most tempting loot of all the world."

"Experience has proved that none can appease the Nazis. No man can tame a tiger into a kitten by stroking it. Nations can only have peace with the Nazis at the price of total surrender."

Replying to the argument that the Axis will win any way and that the United States might as well throw its influence into the scale of a dictated peace and get the best it can out of that negotiated peace, the President said :

"Nonsense! Is it a negotiated peace if a gang of outlaws surrounds your community and, on threat of extermination, makes you pay tribute to save your skins?"

"The Nazis talk of a new order in the world, but what they have in mind is the oldest and worst tyranny, in which there is no liberty, no religion and no hope."

"The people of Europe who are fighting to defend themselves do not ask us to do their fighting. They ask for implements of war, planes, tanks, guns and freighters. Emphatically we must get these weapons to them in sufficient volume and quickly enough so that we and our children will be saved the agony and suffering of war, which others have had to endure."

THE NEW ORDER

In his striking Christmas message, His Majesty the King feelingly referred to the sufferings of his subjects owing to air raids and to the breaking of numerous family circles and to the fact that this time all the people were in the front line and in the danger together. His Majesty said : "To be good comrades and good neighbours in trouble is one of the finest opportunities for the civilian population and by facing hardship and discomfort cheerfully and resolutely not only do they do their own duty, but they play their part in helping the fighting services to win the war." The King continued : "On every side I have seen a new and splendid spirit of good fellowship springing up in adversity, a real desire to share burdens and resources alike. Out of all this suffering there is growing a harmony which we must carry forward into the days to come, when we have endured to the end and victory is ours."

His Majesty added : "We shall need this spirit in each of our own lives as men and women and shall need it even more among the nations of the world. We must go on thinking less about ourselves and more for one another, for so, and so only, can we hope to make the world a better place and life a worthier thing."

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THE NEW ORDER OF GERMANY

WHAT GERMAN WANTS

Germany boasts of the construction of a "New Order" for Europe and the world. What lies behind the Nazis' loud talk of a future paradise for all who will submit to the yoke? Here are some declared aims of German leaders :

(1) **"The future goal of our foreign policy......ought to be an Eastern policy which will have in view the acquisition of such territory as is necessary for our German people."** *Hitler in 'Mein Kampf'.*

(2) **"Basic tasks for the future are to prepare our Great German Empire and to make it into......a vast continental and colonial domain."** *Dr. Pfitzner, Propaganda Minister Bohemia-Moravia, Jan, 30, 1940.*

(3) **"It is a fight for the destruction of England, the leadership of the world and the domination of our race."**—*Dr. Ley, at Chemnitz, Feb. 9, 1940.*

(4) **"Adolf Hitler is called upon to be the leader of the world, unhampered by anyone."**—*Dr. Frank, Governor of German-occupied Poland, reported Dec. 22, 1940.*

DOES IT MATTER?

Would it matter to the ordinary man if Germany achieved her ends? Would it make much difference to him? The question can be answered by those already suffering under the Nazi "New Order".

Poles.

Last January a Vatican broadcast described "the worst persecution in one thousand years of history......an almost daily tale of destruction and infamy, horror and inexcusable excesses committed upon helpless and homeless people".

Since that time the Nazi terror in Poland has not abated. The number of Poles who have died as a direct result of the conquerors' brutality runs into millions. More than half a million have been carried off to slave-labour in Germany.

Czechs.

Seven thousand Czechs in Nazi concentration-camps, the Universities and High Schools closed, the students imprisoned, tortured, assassinated, the scientific collections destroyed or taken away, all contact with the outside world prohibited.

Danes.

Plunder admitted in official Nazi publications began with the driving off of 24,000 sheep a few days afer invasion and of 11,000 head of cattle in a subsequent week. It has proceeded systematically ever since.

Norwegians.

Besides submitting to the suppression of all their traditional liberties, the people of Norway are expected to repay within a year the whole cost of invasion, estimated by the Nazis at £14 million sterling.

Belgians.

Short of food, chiefly fats, meat and grain, Belgium has to watch her pasture cut down by 50 per cent to serve the Nazi war-industry, and to feed the German army of occupation in return for worthless paper money specially printed for the purpose.

French.

The cost of maintaining the German troops occupying France is to be paid by France at 146 milliard francs a year, which means that the Nazis are demanding under this head practically 50 per cent of France's pre-war national income.

Dutch.

Nine-tenths of the Dutch stock of butter were removed in the first week of occupation. Holland has been despoiled of textile stocks, leather, hides and skins, petrol and coal. As in all other Nazi-occupied territories, her Trade Unions have been disbanded, their funds confiscated, and labourers transported to Germany.

TALKING POINTS.

(*Continued from Page 8*)

His Holiness the Pope, in a broadcast on Tuesday, December 24th, said that nations would come to realize the need for a solution of the social problems in the spirit of Christianity, and that the world will leave the hard school of to-day with an improved mind. We must strive for : first, a victory over hatred ; secondly, a victory over lack of trust in international co-operation, thirdly, a victory over the grim principle that force stands for right ; fourthly, a victory over the economic divergencies ; fifthly, victory over egotism. About the coming changes His Holiness said : "Europe and its system of states will not be as they were before. Something new, better, more advanced, more sound, freer and stronger, must replace the past order and eliminate its defects, the weaknesses and deficiencies said to have been convincingly disclosed in recent events." The Pope continued : "With some clear knowledge of the defects of the present and a determined orientation towards a rearrangement that will safeguard the juridical basis of a political international life, no one can be surprised that this pulsating desire is felt more keenly by those larger sections that live by manual labour and so always bound in peace and war to taste more than others the bitter results of economic dislocation, internal and international."

powers. A durable peace could not be made, said M. Unden, by a partition of the world along the lines which made small States pauper inmates of the living space of some great power. This candid expression of opinion is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that Sweden is within arms reach of the Nazi bully.

1917 and Now.

The Germans' approvingly quote an American naval expert (Dec. 20) as saying that the German U-Boats have become as big a menace to Britain as they were in 1917. "It should be borne in mind," they add, "that the situation was very critical for Britain in that year."

Comparisons with the situation in 1917 should hardly be encouraging to the Nazis for they cannot have forgotten who won the war in 1918 in spite of the U-Boat campaign of 1917.

Actually the shipping situation now is far better than it was in 1917. In April 1917 the Germans destroyed 880,000 tons of shipping. The worst recent period of 4 weeks was that ending on October 20 during which 374,502 tons of shipping was lost.

What They Fear.

Both the Italians and the Nazis have often made statements which seem to show that they dread having to meet Indian soldiers in battle. On December 20, for example, the Nazis complained, apropos of the achievements of Indian soldiers in the Western Desert, that Britain has the habit of placing soldiers belonging to other countries at danger points.

Indian troops have always shared equally with other Imperial troops the dangers and the glory of battle. In the Western Desert when the orders for the major advance were given, Indian troops took up positions by night and at dawn both British and Indian troops made a lightning advance in co-operation with tanks and artillery.

British Imports.

The Nazi allegation in Hindustani (Dec. 19) that the difficulty of importing foodstuffs and raw materials has rendered Britain impotent is exploded by the fact that (*a*) Britain is by no means impotent, as events are decisively showing and (*b*) British imports are increasing.

The net value of British imports between November 1, 1939 and October 31, 1940, amounted to £1,120 millions. For the first ten months of 1940, Britain's imports amounted to £953·7 millions, which is £236·5 millions, or, to put it another way, 33 per cent more than in the period January to October 1939. Incidentally, of this increase, £105 millions went into raw materials. Most other categories also, excluding some luxuries, registered increases.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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